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BURT BROS.

Bennington, Vt.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1922

Japan has 67,000,000 population, but only 3,000,000 of them are allowed to vote. You cannot vote there unless you pay a land or business income tax equivalent to \$1.50. With only three in fifty-seven paying income tax and voting, Japan has a big property problem. These facts are from a speech by Dr. G. E. Ueyehara, teaching political science in Meiji university, Tokyo. For discussing universal suffrage in his classes, he was dismissed. Got his job back when students struck in protest. Free speech and suffrage cannot be permanently shackled even in imperialistic Japan. Opposing them is like fighting the law of gravity.

Noting a publisher's estimate that the books of Harold Bell Wright had secured upward of 7,000,000 readers and those of Gene Stratton Porter more than 8,000,000, an editor is moved to put the question, What do Americans read? In view of the aspect of the ordinary bookshop and the typical news stand, it would be a hundred times more to the point to ask, What don't Americans read? Answering the second question would certainly be the swifter method of getting at the facts.

Chinese handbills who kidnaped the wife of the president of the South China republic selected an inopportune moment for their operations. It is most desirable for the "Celestial empire" in its current communications with other countries to present a united front.

It is reported that ladies' hats will be larger this spring. And probably they will be funnier.

If decayed teeth are the cause of Boilshevisia, the teeth of anarchists ought to be drawn.

Have you noticed what a lot of talking everybody seems to be doing?

State Paternalism
"Kinestend," the shelter home for children turned over by the courts to the custody of the state board of char-

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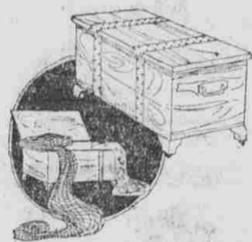
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premium on loading down the state with all sorts of cases in which neglect, immorality or mistake made the home surroundings undesirable. Let a child be brought into the world for almost any cause and Vergennes, Brandon or the state board will have another case to be supported at public expense.

Theoretically, the board finds private homes for normal children and assumes responsibility for the character of such homes, but naturally, with the large increase of commitments, it becomes more and more difficult to find families willing to take in these somewhat dubious "problems" and "make a home" for them. What inevitably must happen is that the so-called shelter home will presently be filled with children of a type which no one cares for—unattractive, possibly diseased or morally defective children—and they will be cared for by the state indefinitely, which merely emphasizes the extent to which the state stands committed to act in the place of parents to such unfortunate.

Vergennes is supposed to care for normal children who by reason of incorrigibility, delinquency or bad home influences seem destined to be criminals or paupers, and Vergennes is always full.

Brandon has always been overcrowded, despite costly additions to the plant, and unfortunately a very large proportion of the feeble-minded must be permanent state charges. There is also a waiting list of morons, imbeciles and idiots who ought to be specially cared for.

The trouble comes in the case with which the towns can shuffle off the coil of responsibility, because a great many cases which are turned over to the state ought to be cared for at home; irresponsible parents should be dealt with locally. Local and personal responsibility ought to be aroused, and the best way to do that is to repeal some of the laws which make it so easy for local authorities to evade the issue.

Incidentally, too, the sob sisters of the various departments should not be taken too seriously. Listening to carefully prepared tales of woe and witnessing effectively staged dramas of neglect have cost the taxpayers a lot of money in the past. Let us be hard-hearted enough—for once—to face these conditions as they are and stop taking over, on the part of the state, myriad activities which belong to the individual or the town.

We talk a lot about federal paternalism; let us look a little into state paternalism and its results.—Rutland Herald.

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